

REMARKS

The foregoing Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed June 1, 2004.

Applicant was pleased to note the indication of allowable subject matter, and has endeavored to place this case in condition for allowance.

With respect to the drawing objections, Applicant has submitted herewith proposed drawing amendment which interchanges the reference numerals 40 and 44 in FIG. 2. The reference numerals 42 and 46 are also interchanged, because they identify parts of elements 40 and 44.

With respect to the objection that reference numeral 44 as shown in FIG. 4 appears to pointing to the web portion proximal to the seal 34 rather than to the second seal plate which is distal to the seal 34, Applicant respectfully traverses this objection. The second seal plate 44 defines a peripheral groove 46, which receives the second annual seal 34. Thus, the sealing plate 44 comprises the portion of the plug body on both sides of the seal 34, and the lead line of the reference numeral is appropriately positioned on either side of the seal 34.

With respect to the objection that the drawings have a line quality that is too light, Applicant notes that the Examiner is referring to the drawings filed on 27 June 2003. Please note that Applicant forwarded formal drawings on November 24, 2003, accompanying the Response to Notice to File Missing Parts. Applicant believes the drawings sent November 24, 2003 are acceptable, except for the objection to FIG. 2 noted in the Office Action. Therefore, Applicant submits herewith three sheets of formal drawings, including sheet 1/3 incorporating

the proposed change to FIG. 2 and labeled as a replacement sheet, and extra copies of sheets 2/3 and 3/3.

The specification has been amended in accordance with the suggestions set forth in the Office Action.

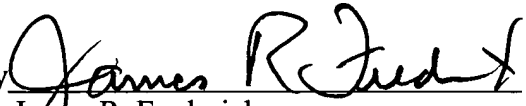
With respect to the claim objections, the claims have been amended to satisfy each of the specific informalities. The dependency of the claims 11 and 16 have been changed such that antecedent basis is found in the parent claim.

In addition, a new claim 21 has been added. It maintains the distinction over the prior art set forth in the statement of allowable subject matter, and provides apparatus for carrying out the method in allowable method claim 17. Accordingly, newly added claim 21 is also believed allowable.

The foregoing is believed to place this case in condition for allowance, and such favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Annotated Marked-Up Drawing.

1/3

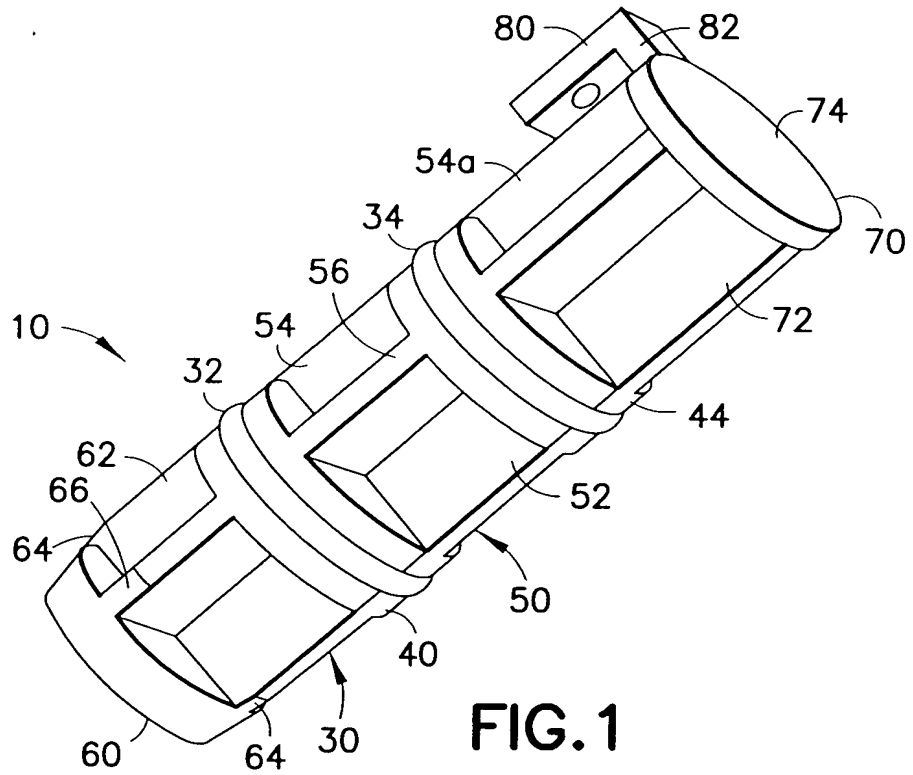


FIG. 1

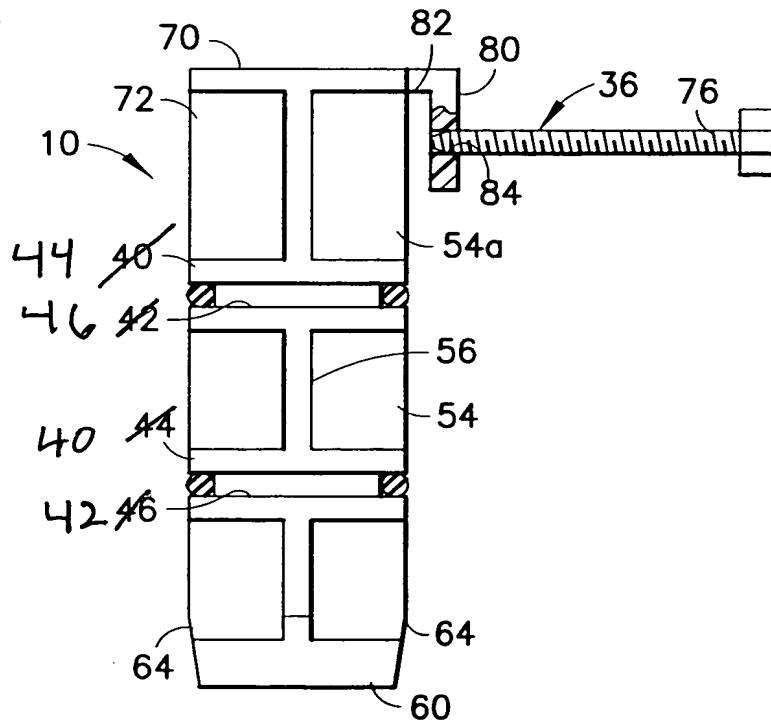


FIG. 2